

## CAN GOD? GOD CAN! Daniel 4:1-27

Intro: To me, this chapter is one of the most unusual and most interesting in the Bible. Here, we have an autobiographical statement by the ruler of most of the then known world (3:4), and it is recorded in the Word of God.

Our question is Can God? And the answer from the king of Babylon is an emphatic God Can! Friends, God can do as He pleases among men. He can do what He pleases with the earth beneath and the heaven above. He can do as He pleases with the weather and with the waves. He is the Sovereign of the universe.

Can God take a high and mighty king and cut him down to size? Can God? God Can! Can God change the heart of a wicked, ungodly world leader and bring him to conversion? Can God? God Can! Can God take the dead spiritually and breath life into their dead souls? Can God? God Can!

In his autobiographical sketch, it is king Nebuchadnezzar who is saying, God Can! Yes, God can cause us to abound, and He can take us down.

This chapter is the testimony of what God can do.

### I. VSS. 1-3, PREFACE TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S PRONOUNCEMENT

A. VS. 1, The king wants everyone to hear what he has to say about what God can do. He wants to say loud and clear, God Can!

1. In this verse, we are reminded of the words of Paul in the New Testament as king Nebuchadnezzar says: "Peace be multiplied you." These words are the words of a man who has been converted by the grace of God. Can God touch an old heathen like Nebuchadnezzar and draw him into the fold? God Can!

2. You may think you are too wicked to be saved. That is not so. God can save to the uttermost the vilest of sinners. Hebrews 7:25 says: "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

B. VS. 2, The why of the pronouncement is given here.

C. VS. 3, The king breaks out in praise for the one and only true God. Psalm 66:16 declares: "Come and hear, all ye that fear

God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul.”

II. VSS. 4-9, PROCUREMENT OF A PROPHETIC DREAM

- A. VS. 4, This indicates that things were going really well for the king. He was at rest in his magnificent palace, and the Babylonian Empire was flourishing.
- B. VS. 5, A man who was not afraid of anything became frightened by a dream sent from God. This dream will be used by of the Lord to send a very important message to a very powerful king. God in His mercy, can chose to use anything He pleases to get to the heart of man.
- C. VSS. 6-7, The command goes out to bring in all the wise men in the kingdom so that they can tell the king what this dream is all about. The result of his asking these wise men is the same as it had been years ago. “They did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof,” says the king.
- D. VS. 8-9, Once again Daniel enters the palace after others have tried to give the interpretation. It was not because the king was at that time trusting in the God of Daniel, but because he believed that Daniel was in tune with the gods that he listened to him.
  - 1. The king had looked for the answer to his dream in the wrong places and from the wrong people. Isn't just like the people of the world today.
  - 2. One thing is for sure, the king knew that there was something different about Daniel. Daniel had a testimony that stood out. Three times the king said that the spirit of the gods was with him. You don't have to wear a cross around your neck or a special T-Shirt to say, “Hey, look I'm a Christian.” If you are living for the Lord, people will know it.
  - 3. You and I are to be shining lights in a dark world. The old song says: “Can others see Jesus in you? Can others see Jesus in you? For how will the lost know of Jesus if they cannot see Jesus in you?”

III. VSS. 10-17, PORTAYAL OF THE DREAM

- A. VS. 10-12, The picture here is of a very fine and fruitful tree. It is lush with leaves and loaded with fruit. The tree provided shade and protection. The repetition of “all” in these verses

indicates far reaching limbs of this tree.

- B. VSS. 13-17, A visit from a heavenly being.
  - 1. VS. 13, "...A watcher and an holy one came down from heaven." An angel of God came to visit Nebuchadnezzar.
  - 2. VSS. 14-16, The marvelous tree is to be hewn down and the branches cut off, the leaves shaken away and the fruit scattered. The beasts and the birds are driven away.
    - a. In verse 15, we find that the stump remains. The bands Wiersbe says: "The banding of the stump may suggest that he was marked by God and protected by Him until His purposes for him were fulfilled." (Vol. 3,268)
    - b. The heart of the king is to be changed into that of a beast, verse 16. One of the diseases that can cause a person to think and act as a beast is Boanthropy. This is a form of insanity in which the inner conciseness remains much the same, but the outer behavior is wild looking and unreasonable.
  - 3. VS. 17, All that happened to Nebuchadnezzar was in God's eternal plan. God is Sovereign, and He rules. Can God do as He desires? Can God? God Can! Pay particular attention to the phrase, "the decree of the watchers." There is a spirit world, and the book of Daniel is the book that plainly points this out. Daniel 10:13, 20 tells us of a spiritual battle that Daniel faced. Ephesians 6:11-12 reminds us that we are wrestling "against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."
    - a. God can set up a king, and he can bring him down, and if He pleases, He can set him up again. "Men rule only as an extension of God's absolute authority." (Merryman 37)
    - b. God can set up men of low morals and of little character and knowledge of governing if He wills so.

#### IV. VS. 18, PLEA FOR AN INTERPRETATION

- A. Daniel has been in this place before.
- B. The king has confidence in Daniel because he has proven

himself in the past.

V. VSS. 19-27, PIERCING OF THE DREAM

- A. VS. 19, Daniel was taken back, astonished by the dreams interpretation. The king consoles the man of God. The king had come to respect Daniel, and the prophet knew that the dreams revelation would please the enemies of the king.
- B. VSS. 20-22, The tree in the dream represents king Nebuchadnezzar as Daniel points out to him. The king thought that he had been strong because his prowess. God is going to teach him that the God of heaven is in charge.
- C. VS. 23, Here is another affirmation of the spirit world in which we all live. The angel told the king exactly what was about to happen. To know what is going to happen today and in the future, we need only to read the Word of God and believe it.
- D. VSS. 24-26, The veil of mystery is pierced, and Daniel reveals the meaning of the dream.
  - 1. When men try to ignore God, He gives them a wake up call. God does not allow man to usurp authority over Him nor does He let mere mortals take credit for His marvelous works. He alone is omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, and Sovereign.
  - 2. "When men and women refuse to submit themselves to God as creatures made in His image, they are in grave danger of descending to the level of animals." (Vol.3, 268)
- E. VS. 27, Daniel admonished this world monarch quit living a life of sin, live righteously, and treat the poor right.
  - 1. It is my prayer that God would grant repentance to men, women, boys, and girls today.
  - 2. As we shall see, king Nebuchadnezzar, in passing up the invitation of heaven. He will suffer for his sin.

Conclusion: Do not doubt, even for a moment, the Sovereign rule of Almighty God.

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